

# PLANNING AHEAD

## Notes for the Planning Community

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#### Stockton's Swan Song

Two and a half years ago I left Portland and arrived at the Pulaski Building. Not knowing what to expect, I intentionally set my expectations low (as folks in the field sometimes do when they reflect on an assignment at Headquarters). Other than 3 years with the Navy in Norfolk, my entire Federal career had been spent in Oregon. To my delight I have found that Headquarters is an incredibly exciting and challenging place to work. Recognize now that this was my first exposure to the "nurturing" leadership style of MG Genega, and I still loved it. The friendly and helpful folks I have had the opportunity to work with, and learn from, are without exception among the finest the world has to offer. They are incredibly talented, technically competent, dedicated and hardworking. I have come to appreciate more fully the depth of

talent that the Corps possesses in every District, Division, Lab, and yes, especially Headquarters. I must give special recognition to the folks I have worked most closely with in Civil Works Engineering (and soon to be Construction) Division and my adopted staff in Planning Division. Without their solid support issuing guidance, responding to taskers or solving the problem du jour, my stay here would have been very trying. I believe I have re-learned a very important lesson. People make us the great organization we are today.

As I move to the South Pacific Division, I think the thing that I will miss most about my assignment at Headquarters will be the people. I would like to be able to thank all of you individually for the assistance that you have given me during my tenure, however, that is impossible for I would surely miss someone. Therefore please accept this message as my heartfelt "Thank You" for your hard work. That said, I still need to thank Harry Kitch and Charles Pearre, editors in chief for "Planning Ahead" and "CW Engineering Notes". Without their perseverance and continual reminders there would have been far fewer of these newsletters. I hope you have found them worthwhile and hope that they have brought us a little bit closer together throughout the Corps.

The challenge that I see in the near future is our ability to change from a "stovepipe" organization, with a district focus,

to a "corporate team". To do this we must make all boundaries within our organization transparent to our customers and deliver the best possible projects and services to our customers using the best talent the Corps has to offer, regardless of where that talent resides. We can do this.....together.

When your travels take you to San Francisco, please stop by the division office for a visit. I will be leaving Washington on 17 July and reporting to South Pacific Division on 3 August. Until Carl Enson arrives in Washington on 31 August, Philip M. Brown will be Acting Chief, Engineering and Construction Division. Harry Kitch and John Burns will share the Acting Chief Planning responsibilities until Carl arrives on 31 August or until a permanent selection for the Chief of Planning is announced.

Take care and Essayons.....Steve



## A Word From The Editor

*Harry Kitch – CECW-PC*

Remember that you can find this and past issues at:

<http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwpnews.htm> ❖

## Section 14 Success Story

*Russ Rangos – CECW-PM*

Hats off to Little Rock District's North Little Rock Section 14 project team for its quick action in issuing a notice to proceed on this project just 55 days after initiating the Planning and Design Analysis. The team accomplished a feat that only a few years ago was considered NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE in ONE YEAR, let alone in under 2 MONTHS. The \$648,000 project protects a sewer main

and a water main running along the Arkansas River, and consists of 1800 feet of stone protection along the threatened reach.

This "can-do", multi-disciplinary team showed us exactly what can be accomplished with the Continuing Authorities Program policies, procedures, and approval authorities. CAP management encourages innovative measures to solve water resource problems, and this team did just that in style. We look forward to other CAP teams relating success stories of their own.

The North Little Rock project team: Ms. Brenda Puloma, Plan Formulation; Mr. Greg Yada, Hydrology and Hydraulics; Mr. Mike Black, Economics; Ms. Elaine Edwards, Regulatory; Mr. Rod Gaines, Geotechnical; Ms. Janet Holmes and Ms. Virginia Moore, Contracting; Ms. Barbara Holmes, Real Estate; and Ms. Gwen Albert, SWD CAP Manager. ❖

## Timely Realization of Flood Damage Reduction Benefits

*Ken Zwickl - CECW-PM*

*The following is an excerpt from a 27 April 1993 CECW-P/CECW-B memo to all Major Subordinate Commands. There have been several calls over the past month or so concerning this issue, so we are circulating it again.*

Flood damage reduction projects and shore protection projects can greatly impact on a local community's requirements for continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The appropriate FEMA regional office must be notified promptly of the results of new analyses and projects nearing completion of construction that would affect the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). This timely notification to FEMA and the local community will alert them to take

necessary actions to revise the community's FIRM as appropriate. This will allow the local community to receive the maximum benefits from both the NFIP and the Corps project.

During the reconnaissance or feasibility phase of a study, FEMA should be notified as soon as possible if the Corps investigation of existing conditions hydrology and/or hydraulics is significantly different from the FEMA-published FIRM for the community. In addition, work items can be included in the Initial Project Management Plan to develop the post-project hydrologic and hydraulic data in FEMA format concurrently with the Corps investigations. These work items should only be included at the local sponsor's option, and must be cost-shared in the same manner as the feasibility study.

For projects that progress beyond the feasibility phase, a major milestone has been identified to ensure that the Corps does all it can to assist the community in revising its FIRM. The FEMA/NFIP Adequate Progress milestone is between the milestones for award of and physical completion of the construction contract of the project. This milestone can be accomplished by a letter to FEMA notifying them that the project has reached the "adequate progress" point of construction. As defined by law, "adequate progress" has been made when the project costs have been 100% authorized, at least 60% appropriated, and at least 50% expended, and where the critical project features are at least 50% completed. Note that there may be some instances where a separable element of a project, when completed would provide flood protection to a distinct portion of the study area prior to completing the entire Corps project. In these cases, FEMA should be notified when each separable element of the project has reached the "adequate progress" point.

Further, to ensure that the appropriate data reflecting post-project conditions is available at the appropriate time for the local community to request an updated FIRM from FEMA, a FEMA/NFIP Adequate Progress

Plan must be included in the Project Management Plan for Civil Works projects. The FEMA/NFIP Adequate Progress Plan must address the coordination, investigations, and responsibilities of the involved parties to ensure that the necessary data is developed and available when the Adequate Progress milestone is reached. The necessary data can be developed 1) by the Corps and cost-shared with the local sponsor, 2) by the Corps and reimbursed by FEMA, or 3) by some other mutually agreed upon method. ❖

## DEADLINE

The deadline for material for the August issue is 21 August 1998. ❖

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